

David P. Forrest House
39 Front Street
Schenectady
Schenectady County
New York

HABS No. NY-3278

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NY,
47 SCHE,
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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. NY-3278

DAVID P. FORREST HOUSE

HABS
N.Y.,
47-SCH-24

Address: 39 Front Street, Schenectady, Schenectady County,
New York.

Present Owner
and Occupant: Edwin G. Weinheimer

Present Use: Residence.

Brief Statement
of Significance: A late 19th-century house of interesting
architectural character.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Original and subsequent owners: David P. Forrest owned lot in 1860; this was his residence after 1865. Purchased by Edwin G. Weinheimer in 1957.

B. Date of erection: Circa 1865 [Mrs. Page's diary of 1865, about home next door, and physical evidence that this house was erected later. (Diary in Schenectady County Historical Society); Schenectady Atlas, 1866].

C. Sources of information: Interview of September 6, 1962, with John A. Miller, 114 Front Street, Schenectady, New York.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATIONA. General Statement

1. Architectural character: A late 19th-century house with interesting ornate details on exterior and interior.

2. Condition of fabric: Good generally, some portions undergoing repairs and refinishing.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: About 40' frontage. One-and-a-half stories; U-shape, with rear additions.

2. Foundations: Field stone; brick on exterior, quite low.

3. Wall construction: Brick (presently painted).

4. Porches: Small wood entrance porch with octagonal columns, cove capitals. Treacey Tudor arches. Treacey railing above flat roof.

5. Chimneys: Two - one at each end of front portion, on ridge.

6. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: Entrance doorway has Tudor arch (brick) with wood tracery. Side lights and transom light; six-panel door with cusps at top of upper panels.

b. Windows and shutters: Double hung sash, one over one light. Louvered shutters. Triangular wood trim over two front windows, with corner finials and battlement motive. Central window has pointed two-centered arch with wood tracery.

7. Roof:

a. Shape and covering: Gable; ridge parallel to street, with central gable on facade.

b. Cornice, eaves: Ornate cusped verge boards and pendant trim.

C. Technical Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: First floor: central hall and stairway, two deep rooms on west side; one deep and one shallow room on east side. West portion is continued by wooden addition to rear. Second floor: generally similar. Basement is under main brick portion of house.

2. Stairways: Straight flight, open string. Balusters (two per tread) have round and octagonal portions. Turned newel, simple, rounded handrail.

3. Flooring: Original wide pine floor boards have been covered on first floor, but are generally exposed on second floor.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster on sawn wood lath, generally papered. Plaster cornice in main rooms.

5. Doorways and doors: First floor: Four-paneled, the upper two terminating in two centered, pointed arches inscribed in the rectangular head. Second floor: Simpler four-panel doors.

6. Trim: Wood architrave trim with three consecutive, rounded moldings, resting on plinth. Wood base continues plinth with moldings above. Between main rooms of first floor, on west side, is an ornate screen consisting of wide central opening and two narrower openings. Slender wood Corinthian columns on pedestals. Above capitals the openings are filled with pierced wooden grille of curvilinear design. Central grille is symmetrical about vertical axis; grilles at side are each symmetrical about vertical and horizontal axes. This whole opening is framed with wide wooden architrave trim. In alcove

on west wall of west rear room has cabinet in lower portion, bracketed cornice at top.

7. Heating: Fireplace in each front room, first floor. Simple mantels appear contemporary with house. Modern central heating.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: Faces south onto narrow residential street. Built near street line. Adjoins house to east, has very narrow side yard to west.

2. Enclosures: Ornamental cast iron fence across front appears contemporary with house.

Prepared by Harley J. McKee, Architect
National Park Service
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